

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 6

By Johnson C

A RESOLUTION to recognize Gene Washer on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are proud to recognize those members of society who serve as beacons of truth, shining a light on all that is newsworthy and dedicating themselves to keeping the community informed; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gene Washer, the 21<sup>st</sup> publisher of *The Leaf-Chronicle*, is one such individual, a man who has dedicated his life to describing the world of today while pursuing a better world for tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, on August 29, 2008, Mr. Washer formally retired from the newspaper, completing a distinguished career with *The Leaf-Chronicle* that spanned over forty-five years; and

WHEREAS, joining the newspaper in 1963, Mr. Washer became the publisher of *The Leaf-Chronicle* in 1991, and since that day he has toiled tirelessly to produce the finest newspaper for the residents of Clarksville and Montgomery County; and

WHEREAS, with just three hours of journalism credit from Austin Peay State University, Doug Washer tenaciously pursued a job at *The Leaf-Chronicle* as a reporter in 1963, writing his first story about the consolidation of schools; and

WHEREAS, named to the post of Sports Editor in 1964, Mr. Washer held that position for the next thirteen years before being named Editor of *The Leaf-Chronicle* in 1977, having established an admirable reputation as a newspaperman's newspaperman; and

WHEREAS, learning the business-side of the newspaper industry from former *Leaf-Chronicle* General Manager Bob Atkins, Mr. Washer served as general manager of Nashville Suburban Newspapers from 1981-82 and publisher of *The Dickson Herald* and general manager of Clarksville Weeklies from 1982 to 1983; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, Doug Washer was named Advertising director for *The Leaf-Chronicle* and become general manager of *The Leaf Chronicle* and Clarksville Weeklies in 1985. After serving as associate publisher of *The Leaf Chronicle* from 1989-90, he was named Vice-President of Middle Tennessee Publishing Co. in 1991, a post he would hold until 1998; and

WHEREAS, named the 21<sup>st</sup> publisher of *The Leaf Chronicle* in 1991, Doug Washer's most memorable moments at the paper occurred during the immediate aftermath and the recovery period of the devastating tornado that struck downtown Clarksville on January 22, 1999; and

WHEREAS, a former trustee of the Tennessee Press Association Foundation Board, Mr. Washer has twice been named one of the Top 10 Publishers in Gannett Co., and is the only two-time president of the Tennessee Press Association, having served in 1994-95 and again in 2000-01; and

WHEREAS, as publisher of the local newspaper, Gene Washer has been a guiding force within the community and has become one of the town's boldest and most progressive leaders; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Washer, as a civic leader, played the pivotal role in the formation of the Clarksville Montgomery County Economic Development Council, spearheaded the efforts of the Parking Authority during the construction of the Cumberland Place Parking Plaza, served as chair of the Museum Board at the opening of the new Customs House Museum and Cultural Center, and led the negotiations, as a member of the Gateway Health System Board of Trustees, during the sale of the hospital; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, Mr. Washer helped form Legends Bank and currently serves as a member of the bank's board of directors; and

WHEREAS, dedicated to his family, Mr. Washer enjoys the love and support of his wife, Ann, and their three sons: Ben, Tom and Jon; and

WHEREAS, Doug Washer has proven to be a stalwart supporter of his community and his appreciation of Clarksville, Montgomery County, and environs enabled him, as the 21<sup>st</sup> publisher of *The Leaf-Chronicle*, to sustain and enhance the 200-year-old newspaper's

reputation as one of the finest newspapers in the land, a feat for which he deserves the highest recognition; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we commend Doug Washer on his extraordinary career and tenure as the 21<sup>st</sup> publisher of *The Leaf-Chronicle*, and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.